Rural Community Development Committee

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chr
1-Sinclair

Rural Comm
Dev. Committee

Jidda, Saudi Arabia
August 3, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Edward Betzig
Acting Program Officer

FROM: E. F. Sinclair, Chief,
Transportation and Communications Division

RE: Your Memorandum dated July 14, 1953, relative to the Rural Community Development Project

As you are well aware, the main subject of discussion at our last meeting was the transportation facilities to and from Jidda to the Gizan area. I am quite willing to get something moving in connection with improvements to the highway in question; however, I think the first thing to do is to have the contractor, whoever he is, come in and have a talk with us and see what his plans are and whether or not they coincide with what we have in mind. Naturally I will want to look at the territory involved along with the contractor's engineer to see just where it is necessary to take the most important steps in connection with the repair work.

I am ready at all times to assist in cooperating in any development in this area. However, we cannot just go out blind without sitting down and discussing with the contractor what he has in mind or what the SAG has in mind for him to do.

Rural Com Dev. Committee File

American Embassy
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

MEMORANDUM

August 3, 1953

TO: Mr. Edward Betzig
Acting Program Officer

FROM: G. W. Ferguson
Chief, Health & Sanitation Division

SUBJECT: Rural Community Development Project

7/23

Receipt is acknowledged of your proposals for operations.

On several occasions I have expressed my opinions concerning this project. The latest occasion was at a committee meeting held on July 9, 1953 when you were chairman. These opinions do not agree with your proposals concerning the activities of the Health Division.

GWFerguson/djh

F-1
Rural Comm
Dev. committee

Jidda, Saudi Arabia

August 3, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: Edward Betzig
Acting Program Officer

FROM: Robert D. Dolley
Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Your Memo. July 23
re: Proposals for Operations in Rural Community Development.

a) OK

b) No comment

c) There is little in the way of getting this operation in action within two weeks.
Plan should consist of an estimate of the cost and equipment needed to repair existing dams and build a few new ones if needed.
2. Setting up a temporary tent camp.
3. Finding out what the people recommend and following their advice.

d) No time left for this.

e) Again, a tent headquarters should be set up to be occupied intermittently by specialists assigned to do a special job that would not require more than 30 days to complete in each instance. Two to three weeks could see this project going.

f) No comment: first paragraph.

g) Wrong and expensive: second paragraph.

g) Start in one place only.

Rural Comm. Dev. Committee

File 1
2
Chron.
Dr. Edens

See memo 7/23

Jidda, Saudi Arabia

August 2, 1953

MEMORANDUM

TO: Edward Betzig, Acting Program Officer

FROM: W. J. Edens, Chief, Agriculture Division

SUBJECT: Rural Community Development Projects in Wadis Itwad and Khulais

My memo of June 14, 1953, addressed to Mr. Dunaway expresses my opinion relative to initiating work in the Wadi Itwad area. At that time I suggested that TCA "recommend to the SAG that active technical assistance in the Wadi Itwad area be deferred until ground water for irrigation purposes has been proven reasonably adequate, and improvements made on the road connecting Jidda and the wadi." It was further recommended that TCA cooperate with the SAG in the selection of one or more communities for initiating improvement development programs in agriculture, health and sanitation, natural resources, transportation and vocational training.

For present action, I suggest that TCA discuss thoroughly with the host government (Finance Minister) the Wadi Itwad situation and the advisability of rendering technical assistance elsewhere until the time is more appropriate to begin work in the Wadi Itwad area.

WJEdens:o

Copies to -
Mr. Dunaway, Acting U. S. Director
Division Chiefs

Rural Com Dev. Committee

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

July 23, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: Rural Community Development Committee

FROM: Edward Betzig EB
Acting Program Officer

SUBJECT: Proposals for Operations

The following proposals are presented to form the basis for going projects. After discussion and study, each Division should present concrete plans of work based on what can be done now and in the immediate future with the technicians already in the field. Discussions with SAG officials as to their ideas and suggestions, and field trips to the areas concerned should be made part of the planning process.

When such plans have been put into somewhat detailed form, conferences should be held with Mr. Husseini and SAG officials to get final clearances on proposals. At this time, the matter of actual implementation should be discussed and every effort made to begin field work.

Wadi Itwad

a) Road repair and improvement be begun immediately. At this time emphasis must be placed on overcoming procurement difficulties and seeing that Government contractor begins to move. Work and equipment should be supervised by TCA-SAG officials as this is the only way to assure proper use and maintenance of equipment.

b) Clarify status of well-drilling operations and work out definite time schedule - number of wells to be drilled, etc. It is understood a new rig is to be sent to Wadi Itwad as soon as a newly-contracted driller arrives. It would be best, if possible, for this work to be carried out under the technical guidance of a TCA geologist.

c) In the latter part of August or early September, the Chief of the Agriculture Division, with whatever specialists are in the field, should to to El Darb for a short reconnaissance to make up a work plan. Following this, a TCA technician should be stationed at El Darb to help local people improve the irrigation set-up and methods. Supply him with necessary shovels, picks, wheel-barrows and perhaps a tractor and trucks to begin small demonstration projects aimed at getting better use of surface water. He would also work to improve crops, try out new crops, etc.

A Palestinian or other local person should be recruited to work with the TCA technician. It is recommended that the Department of Agriculture employee previously stationed at Buraida-Anzia be so employed. SAG is determined that we carry out such work in this region and we must use the men and resources at hand.

d) When the irrigation engineer being recruited arrives in Saudi Arabia, he should immediately be employed to carry out studies in Itwad and should select certain projects to be carried out on a demonstrational basis. Stress in all such work should be on use of local labor, materials and simple machinery. Improvement of practices and methods now employed should be the prime method of approach. It should be noted that, at best, this work requires a large outlay of capital if a rational flood control - irrigation system is to be built in the Wadi.

e) In the latter part of August or early September, the Chief of the Health Division and his technicians should go to El Darb for a short reconnaissance to carry out a health-sanitation survey of the Wadi and present proposals for work. It is recommended that a local doctor (Middle Eastern) be recruited immediately and be stationed at a clinic located in El Darb. A U. S. Sanitarian should also work in the area and carry out such projects as are considered feasible. The report of Brinck on the Wadi Fatima village might be used as a basis for discussion and for drawing up work plans.

f) This project has taken so long to get into operation that it is imperative we begin now to make use of the men, equipment, supplies, etc., at hand to get something started. The fact that there are many difficulties to overcome should not prevent a start from being made.

During the first weeks, the field party will of necessity have to live in tents or other temporary quarters. However, one of the first tasks of the field group should be to build a permanent camp near a water well. Equipment, supplies, transport, etc., required for this work should be gotten together and be ready to go by September 1.

g) Work in Wadi Khulais - Hada esh Sham should follow a somewhat similar plan. Water exploration and well drilling should be pushed. Health and Agriculture surveys should be made and work plans drawn up during August so as to be ready to begin work by September.

An American Agriculture technician and a local agriculturist should work with the people as noted above.

A Health technician, preferably a Sanitarian, after studying the region, should carry out demonstration projects.

Temporary living quarters, such as trailers, would have to be provided.

It is realized that great difficulties remain to be overcome. However, nearly eight months have gone by since the Project Agreement was signed. Aside from the purchase of some road equipment and some geological exploration and well drilling, nothing has been done. This project is a priority project with SAG and it is up to us to achieve the maximum results.

Critical comments on the above proposals are requested. It should be stressed however, that the time for discussion is past and what is necessary is to draw up work plans and get underway.

Rural Com
Dev. Committee

American Embassy
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

MEMORANDUM

July 16, 1953

TO: Mr. Edward Betzig
Secretary to Community Development Project Committee

FROM: John A. Dunaway, Acting U. S. Director
of Technical Cooperation in Saudi Arabia

SUBJECT: Recommendations at first meeting

1. (a) Please refer to Mr. Bode for the exact amounts obligated and charged to the $500,000 contribution of TCA. I think however you already know the amount is approximately $200,000, leaving a balance of about $300,000.

(b) Mr. Stacy will supply you with the list of machinery already purchased and that which is under purchase. The Committee is of course welcome to all available information on this project. However, the Committee should be informed that the loan of this machinery does not make the Gizan road construction a part of the Community Development Project nor place the work of the contractor under jurisdiction of TCA. The procurement of this machinery is being made in accordance with the conditions proposed by TCA/SA and approved by TCA/W. I have handled the negotiations with SAG under the direction of the Ambassador. You will be kept informed of the progress of the procurement and I, of course, welcome any constructive suggestions from the Committee. However for the present I suggest that the Committee should not consider this machinery transaction within its terms of reference but should instead centralize its study on plans and programs for the work at El Darb and Khulais.

2. I have no objection to adding Mr. Sinclair to the Committee as one of the objectives of the Agreement is the "improvement of highways". The Committee should bear in mind, however, that this is not meant to be construed as including the whole Gizan road as a part of the cooperative project or that the money SAG spends on it is a proper charge against its $500,000 contribution. Personally I am sorry that this is the case for I think a joint project in major road building would produce greater and quicker economic benefits in comparison to cost than the project provided for in the Agreement. However the task before us is to plan how to implement the project as agreed to.

3. I suggest that the answer to the Committee's request lies largely in the plan of operation and administration finally adopted as a result of the Committee's findings and recommendations. It will also

depend upon whether this project is undertaken by technicians hired directly or whether undertaken by means of the "teams" employed by contract with the Near East Foundation or other like organizations. I suggest this is a problem which the Committee might well explore and make suitable recommendations. These I think should go in to Washington soon. Other than that a "team" was being considered, we have no information as to what type of technicians was to be included in each team, etc.

4. I am sure visits to El Darb would be useful but for the moment I believe these should not be undertaken by reason of expense. It should be borne in mind that all expenses of this nature must come from our all too meager allotment of funds for the several divisions.

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

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July 14, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. John A. Dunaway
Acting U. S. Director

FROM: Rural Community Development Project Committee

SUBJECT: Recommendations at First Meeting

1. It is requested that information concerning the current financial status of the Rural Community Development Project be given to the Committee. This would include a breakdown of money expended including a description of road machinery purchased or to be purchased; status of the $40,000 medical supply order; and the $20,000 charge against Rural Community Development Project funds for miscellaneous items.

2. It is recommended that Mr. Sinclair, Chief of Transportation and Communication be made a member of the Committee. As the Transportation and Communication Division is a vital element in this project, and as Mr. Sinclair's name was not originally included, the Committee feels his presence to be proper and necessary.

3. It is requested that information be supplied concerning methods and procedures for expending the remaining Rural Community Development funds. What are the actual steps to be taken by a Division Chief when he starts to work on a project requiring the expenditure of funds in the field or in the United States?

4. It is strongly recommended that interested Committee Members make investigation trips to Wadi Itwad and the Wadis around Jidda as soon as possible.

copies to: Committee Members

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION AIMINISTRATION
Jidda, Saudi Arabia

RESTRICTED

July 14, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. John A. Duneway
Acting U. S. Director

FROM: Edward Betzig
Acting Program Officer

SUBJECT: Report on Rural Community Development Project Committee Meeting on July 9, 1953

The meeting was held to attempt to get a picture of the status of the Project and begin to work up plans for implementing work. At the beginning, several committee members brought up the question of the absence of Mr. Sinclair and accordingly he was invited to participate as Chief of the Transportation and Communication Division under which road repair work falls.

Several persons stressed the need to use monies left in the Project fund in as rapid and concrete a manner as possible with emphasis on the El Darb part of the Project being given to road repair and water exploration and use. Discussion took place as to funds already expended and it was requested that a statement of the project's status to date be obtained.

Mr. Ferguson stated he questioned doing health work at this time in the Tihama and said he was strongly opposed to the idea. However, he would be most eager to participate in such work in Wadi Khulais - Hada esh Sham, etc. The Agreement was reviewed and it was agreed that work by a number of Divisions could be profitably carried out in that area. Dr. Dolley said the thought of starting an educational program in the area before improving the road and bringing in additional water was out of the question.

The suggestion was made that concrete plans for the Tihama and the Wadis about Jidda should be worked on. These should be presented to SAG to get the Government's reaction. Included would be pin-pointing areas where work would be done; estimating how much money would be needed for further water exploration and details as to how much would be expended on other work. In this connection, some discussion took place as to the actual procedures to be followed when expending funds.

Dr. Edens stated he agreed in general with the proposal to first stress road repair and water work for the Tihama. He favored getting underway immediately in the other location.

Mr. Daugherty emphasized the need to build a firm foundation of information and facts before drawing up plans and proposals. The project has suffered from the very beginning from haste and lack of knowledge of basic facts. It was proposed that all concerned take a trip to the areas denoted, for the purpose of making at least a brief reconnaissance before any plans are drawn up as to work to be done. Such studies would delineate costs in various areas; then some rough sort of comparative cost analysis could be made on which to pick the optimum location. Mr. Daugherty said he was completing a study of the drainage area of Wadi Itwad at this time. Such will be valuable for any work in Itwad. At the present time, big floods wipe out the primitive diversion structures thrown up by the local people. They need help in building simple yet improved structures so as to get more efficient use out of the sayl waters and avoid the heavy toll of destruction now a constant threat.

It was decided to circulate to committee members such reports as deal with the Project.

Concerning Itwad, the matter of how much TCA could put into an area of less than 5,000 people was discussed. Improved water use would allow for a population increase and would serve as a model for other wadis. Also, road improvement from Jidda to the Tihama would affect probably 100,000 persons. The several Tihama wadis could be developed into food and agricultural producing areas if work such as is proposed were to be carried out. This would be a definite contribution to the economic growth and diversification of Saudi Arabia. Dr. Edens stated it would probably take about 1-1/2 years to show results in Itwad - to recruit personnel, make soil and irrigation studies and get projects underway.

Some discussion took place concerning sending a team to Itwad. It was the consensus of opinion that at this time such a step would not be feasible. Perhaps in the future, with transporation improved and more water available with better irrigation works, the team idea would be practical.

It was recommended that the matter of boat transportation for the Tihama region be investigated.

The next meeting will be held during the week of July 11-17.

COPIES TO: All Committee Members

Rural Comm.
DW.
Committee

File 1
2
Chron.

Jidda, Saudi Arabia

MEMORANDUM

July 5, 1953

TO: Acting Program Officer
Chiefs of Agriculture, Public Health, Natural Resources and Education Divisions

FROM: John A. Dunaway, Acting U. S. Director of Technical Cooperation in Saudi Arabia

SUBJECT: Community Development Project

While several memoranda have been prepared on this project, there is still much to be done in the development of a clear-cut definite program and organization for carrying out the purposes and attaining the objectives of the agreement with SAG.

You are appointed as members of a special Community Development Committee to study this project and report with recommendations as to scope and direction of the program, personnel, organizational procedure and on any other phase of this project upon which recommendations are deemed appropriate.

As you know, this project has been very slow in getting under way and this study is of considerable urgency. I request Mr. Betzig to arrange for the first meeting of the Committee and, in keeping with his official duties, to act as secretary and reporter.

JADunaway:o